

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • APRIL 2007

Panel Explores 'Talking to the Enemy'

OPC EVENT PREVIEW/April 16

by Sonya K. Fry

With the provocative title of "Talking to the Enemy," the Frontline Club of London and the Overseas Press Club are joining forces to present a premiere panel to discuss the ethical, moral and journalistic dilemmas along with the political realities in covering the sworn enemies of a country. Hezbollah, the Taliban, Al Qaeda and Iraqi insurgents are all thought of as "the enemy." Should the western media make a greater effort to cover these so-called enemies? Does the American media engage in self-censorship similar to what the British media did in their coverage of Northern Ireland? Does showing video of Osama bin Laden strolling through the hillside or interviewing a Taliban spokesman constitute an unpatriotic act?

Jon Snow, Britain's leading anchor-presenter, with Channel 4 News since 1989, will moderate. Panelists include **David Loyn**, the BBC's developing world correspondent, who with his crew were the only journalists with the Taliban when they took Kabul in 1996; **Dave Marash**, formerly with "Nightline" and now with Al Jazeera English; **Roger Cohen**, international affairs columnist for the *International Herald Tribune* and international writer-at-large for *The New*

York Times; **Robert Pollock**, editorial features editor of *The Wall Street Journal*; **Jon Alpert**, documentary filmmaker and winner of 15 Emmy Awards and 3 DuPonts, whose current work is "Baghdad ER" for HBO. The panelists will debate and also show clips of their interviews with powerful enemies. In addition, **Aryeh Neier**, president of the Open Society Institute, will have a few opening remarks.

For more than three years, the Frontline Club has been London's premiere gathering place for journalists. They have energized the London journal-

ism front by providing an exciting space for journalists to nosh, drink and discuss the issues of the day. The Frontline Club is testing the waters in New York City and it is partnering with the OPC for this first event, which will be held on Monday, April 16 in the 50th floor executive dining rooms of McGraw-Hill, 1221 Avenue of the Americas at 49th Street.

The program begins at 6:00pm with reception following the panel so that the discussion can continue. Reservations are essential—please call the OPC office 212-626-9220.

Espionage, War and 'Collusion'

OPC BOOK NIGHT/April 10

In their new book, "Collusion: International Espionage and the War on Terror" [Hoboken, New Jersey: Melville House], Italian reporters Carlo Bonini and Giuseppe D'Avanzo

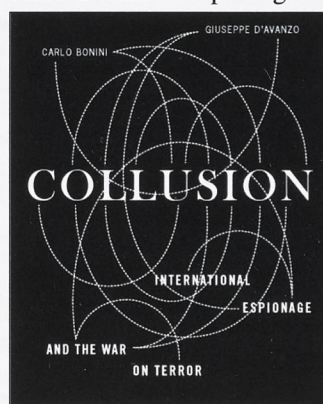
uncover the clandestine operations that helped sell the invasion of Iraq. Bonini and D'Avanzo were the first to reveal how the faulty evidence that Saddam Hussein sought uranium from Niger was provided by Italy's secret intelligence agency, SISMI. The reporters also broke the story of how the kidnapping of Egyptian cleric Abu Omar in Rome was a combined effort of CIA and Italian agents. In the final chapter of their book, they report that Pentagon officials were in close contact with the Iranians before the war, and that Iranian intelligence agencies passed information to the Americans—through Ahmed Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress—to support the American invasion.

Bonini and D'Avanzo, who write for *La Repubblica* and contribute to *Newsweek*, made their reputation in Europe when they worked together as a team at the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper, reporting extensively on Russia and the

corrupt administration of Boris Yeltsin. Their work in this book, praised by Seymour Hersh, should solidify their reputations as two of the world's most talented investigative reporters.

This book night will be at Club Quarters on Tuesday, April 10 beginning at 7pm followed by a reception. Craig Unger, author and journalist, will interview Carlo

Bonini. Unger is deputy editor of the *New York Observer* and editor-in-chief of *Boston Magazine*. He has written articles about both Presidents Bush for *The New Yorker*, *Esquire* and *Vanity Fair*. His most recent book was "House of Bush, House of Saud" [New York: Scribner, 2004]. Please call the OPC office at 212-626-9220 for reservations.



Book jacket

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Whitaker, Pearlstine Say 'Niche' is Future

OPC EVENT RECAP

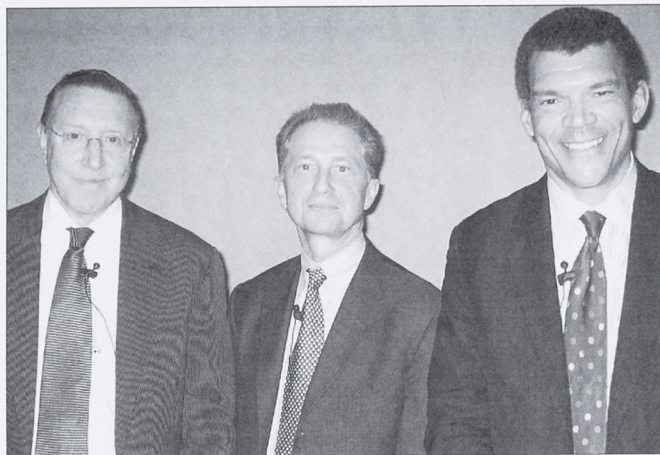
by Doug Merlino

"There's a feeling now in a lot of traditional media that what people have paid for in the past and should still be paying for is content," said Mark Whitaker at the beginning of the Feb. 22 OPC discussion on the future of print journalism. "Newspapers think they're going to save themselves—and magazines, too—by putting content online. But in fact I think that for all these years what people have really been paying for is the delivery system, which is the utility of having all of this news brought to you in a neat package. Thanks to the Internet, people don't need that delivery system anymore."

Whitaker, the former editor-in-chief of *Newsweek* and now editor-in-chief for New Ventures at Washington Post.Newsweek Interactive, was joined by former Time Inc. Editor-in-Chief Norman Pearlstine for a talk that ranged from why the future of "niche" publications looks better than for those with mass circulation to what appears to be an irreversible decline in the number of correspondents posted overseas. Former OPC President Bill Holstein moderated the talk, which

packed the house at Club Quarters.

Pearlstine, now with private equity firm The Carlyle Group, enumerated the problems facing print: Technology has changed the way news is delivered, not only through the Internet but also devices such as cell phones; traditional forms of



Norman Pearlstine, Bill Holstein, Mark Whitaker

advertising, such as classifieds, have dried up, and advertisers are chasing their target demographics online; and a general shift in the culture that means fewer people, especially those under thirty, are reading print publications at all. With the audience diverging, online operations simply don't bring in as much money for media organizations as traditional print publications.

"The business model has to change," Whitaker said. "They have to be on a lower overhead model. Publications have to be much more focused and prove their added value in a given space compared with all the other sources of information out there."

Pearlstine pointed out that newspapers, which until recently enjoyed monopolies in many markets, have been slow to change. "If you think about the newspaper industry, the last major innovation in American newspapers was *USA Today*, and that was 1982," he said. "One of the most innovative things *The New York Times* has done recently is the beta test for 'Times Reader,' which among other things will enable those of us accustomed to *The New York Times* typefaces to see something online that looks just like the newspaper. That's an interesting idea, but far more interesting would be to say, 'What are people doing online, what are their information needs, and in what ways does our brand create opportunities for us and in which cases are they better off using 'MyYahoo!' or something like that?'"

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Iraqi Journalists Tell of Hope, Despair

OPC EVENT RECAP

by Doug Merlino

Three Iraqi journalists currently living in New York gathered at the OPC on March 5 for a discussion about reporting in Iraq, the blunders of the American occupation, and their despair at the current state of their country.

Ali Fadhil, who has worked as an interpreter and is now a documentary filmmaker, was joined by radio and print reporter Ayub Nuri and Zeyad Kasim, the author of the "Healing Iraq" blog (<http://healingiraq.blogspot.com>). The trio has contributed to news organizations including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *Guardian* and Britain's Channel 4. All are currently at universities in New York—Fadhil is a Fulbright scholar at NYU's Department of Journalism, Nuri is a student at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, and Kasim studies at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. OPC Board Member Jacqueline Albert-Simon moderated the discussion, in which the panelists told of hope followed by disillusionment.

"I think most Iraqis were opposed to Saddam's regime," said Kasim, who was a dentist in Baghdad when he started blogging in 2003. "When we watched the statue of Saddam falling, it was a mixture—deep down we were happy that Saddam was gone, but when we saw the chaos with it we questioned that feeling, especially when we saw our own people looting. We were shocked and then saw the Americans standing by and watching like they're just blowing off steam, it was too much to handle."

"I thought there would be freedom of speech, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, that Iraq will be like a paradise," added Nuri, who wrote for English-language web publications from the Kurdish area of Iraq before the war. "I was a strong supporter of the war, but afterward I saw things going wrong and I slowly changed my mind."

Kasim said he was somewhat optimistic until the February 2006 bombing of the Golden Dome Mosque in Samarra. "At that point I lost all hope and eventually I had to lose my own job because I

worked south of Baghdad, two hours travel, and had to pass 20 checkpoints to get to my work. Sometimes you don't even know who's manning these checkpoints—you're not sure if its Iraqi soldiers or militias....My family objected and said this is a government job, this is your only guarantee your whole life, you can't just leave it, but I thought my life is more important than the prospect of having a pension when I'm 60 years old."

All three agreed that the U.S. military is caught between several sides it doesn't understand. Fadhil, who was a medical doctor before turning to journalism after

hands. Nuri said Iran controls the situation in Iraq like the "remote control of a TV." "They can turn it to a new channel, stability or instability if they want," Nuri said. "That's how influential they are. This influence of Iran is not new in Iraq. For thousands of years Iran has been one of the strong forces or empires in the region and there have been many times Iraq has been ruled by Iran."

None of the panelists believe a resolution to the conflict is near. "You can see borders between neighborhoods in Baghdad now," Kasim said. "You can see where a Sunni neighborhood ends and a Shia neighborhood begins. On the frontline there are snipers shooting from roofs, kidnappings, checkpoints. On the ground Iraq is already divided. I can't go to Kurdish north if I want to because Kurdish authorities don't allow Arabs to enter Kurdistan unless they have a Kurd to vouch for them, and also I can't really go to the south because my name is a very obvious Sunni name so I have no guarantee that I would come back alive."

"Partitioning Iraq is just another mistake in the numbers of mistakes the Americans have made in Iraq," Fadhil said. "No one can say what the solution is in Iraq. I don't know. I just know one thing: Iraq was stable before the invasion and I guess it will be stable again after when the invasion leaves Iraq. People are shouting at me, 'There will be a civil war, there will be people killing each other!' But there is a civil war and people killing each other every day. It's just a slow pace. One-hundred Iraqis die every day."

Nuri said that there is no need to deal with theory, because while Iraqi politicians say they want unity, their behavior shows the opposite intent. "No force on earth can convince the Shias to sit down and give the power back to the Sunnis, it's impossible. No force or country or UN Security Council can convince the Kurdish people in the north to sit down and give power back," Nuri said. "That's the reality."

Portions of this event are available as online video at the Scribe Media website: www.scribemedial.org/2007/03/07/three-iraqi-journalists.



Iraqi Journalist Panel: Ayub Nuri, Ali Fadhil, Jacqueline Albert-Simon, Zeyad Kasim.

the invasion, told of working on "Gangs of Iraq," a Frontline documentary for which he accompanied a joint American/Iraqi raid on a weapons cache. While the Americans were happy with their seizure of automatic weapons and car bombs, the cameraman picked up the Iraqi commanders joking with the militia leaders about how the real weapons were stored elsewhere.

"Some tribes have started to work against insurgents," Kasim said. "I believe that these tribes will be a problem at some point. The problem is that the U.S. intervention is trying to change the dynamics in Iraq—it funds different groups and tries to play these groups against each other."

The panelists said religion is used as a tool for manipulation. "Most of these groups fighting in Iraq are seeking power and they're using Islam as an excuse, a vehicle to rally the masses and to bring in recruits and funding from wealthy Gulf countries," Kasim said.

The disarray has played into Iran's

DOUG MERLINO



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt:

An appeals court in March upheld the four-year prison sentence given to **Abdel Kareem Nabil**, 22, a blogger who had criticized conservative Muslims and was convicted of insulting Islam and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. In his blog, Nabil called the prophet Muhammad and his 7th Century followers "spillers of blood" for their teachings on warfare. Nabil, who was sentenced in February, was expelled last year from Al Azhar University for his criticism of the institution.



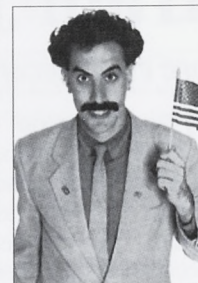
Abdel Kareem Nabil in jail

ANKARA: A Turkish court on March 7 ordered access to YouTube's website blocked after a prosecutor recommended the ban because of videos that allegedly insulted the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. **Paul Doany**, head of Turk Telekom, the nation's largest telecommunications provider, said his company immediately enforced the

ban. "We are not in the position of saying that what YouTube did was an insult, that it was right or wrong," Doany told the state-run Anatolia news agency. "A court decision was proposed to us, and we are doing what that court decision says." Turkish media publicized what some called a "virtual war" between Greeks and Turks on YouTube, with people on both sides posting videos to belittle and berate the other. The video that prompted the ban allegedly said Atatürk and the Turkish people were homosexuals.

ASTANA, Kazakhstan: In the box-office smash movie "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," Borat says he might be executed if he returned to his Central Asian homeland with a lousy report on life in the United States. Not far off the mark. Kazakhstan shut down the fictional Kazakh TV reporter's website and the U.S. State Department issued a report in March criticizing Kazakhstan's handling of the press. The report said that in the past year Kazakh officials sent riot police to strong-arm reporters covering stories they didn't like. On one occasion, police burst into a TV

station, struck a cameraman on his head and broke a camera in the middle of an unflattering broadcast. "It was no wonder that the paranoid nation lashed out at [British comedian Sacha Baron] Cohen for creating a character that mocks their country," the *New York Post* wrote.



Sacha Baron Cohen as Borat

BAGHDAD: NBC News anchor **Brian Williams** broadcast from Baghdad in March, the first U.S. network anchor to visit Iraq since **Bob Woodward** of ABC News was gravely injured by a roadside bomb in January 2006. But Williams said he had not spoken to any Iraqis. "The notion of dismounting, getting out of an armored vehicle and walking around and talking to Iraqis is still more or less a dangerous business," he said when asked on the "Today" show. "Our veteran combat correspondents, like **Richard Engel**, who's lived in Baghdad each year since the conflict began, can get out a little more easily, especially with his command of Arabic, and mix with local people. But for us, that's proven a little bit more difficult."

BAKU, Azerbaijan: The Institute for Reporter Freedom and Safety, based in Baku, accused the government in March of allowing only journalists it deems loyal to the government to cover the trial of former health minister Ali İsmailov, who is charged with trying to overthrow the government. The Institute called on the government to allow video transmission of the trial.

BEIJING: Chinese Communist Party chief Hu Jintao said his government will "purify" the Internet. "We must promote civilized running and use of the Internet and purify the Internet environment," he said in a statement. In a February report, the World Press Freedom Committee said Hu "did not speak directly of obvious censorship, but he made it clear that the Communist Party seeks to control Internet users." The committee said more than 30,000 Internet police in China reportedly search for taboo words such as democracy, Tiananmen Square and Falun Gong that might indicate dissension. At the end of last year, China had about 137 million Internet users, 10.5 percent of its population.

The OPC Corporate Leadership Council

The OPC has launched a new Corporate Leadership Council in close cooperation with President Marshall Loeb and the Board of Governors. The heart of the issue is that media companies are getting pounded financially and are cutting back on bureaus and people. For the OPC to survive and thrive, we need to diversify our sources of financial support. One obvious target is major corporations that have a stake in the quality of international news coverage, particularly business news.

In exchange for \$40,000 the corporate package that we are offering is a prime table at both the OPC awards dinner and the Foundation's scholarship luncheon, five Affiliate memberships, an ad in *Dateline* magazine, sponsorship of an award and the possi-

bility of a business breakfast for a corporate leader to talk to the press.

One company, Siemens, has signed on as a corporate partner and the OPC has several other channels open with other companies in the hopes that they will consider a partnership either this year or next. This formula is precisely what the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong and the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo have adopted. They recognize that they need funding from the corporate sector, but journalists have remained firmly in control of both boards. OPC members who can suggest other companies that might be interested in the Corporate Leadership Council should forward contact names and information to me at bholstein2001@yahoo.com.

— Bill Holstein

DALLAS, Texas: Mike Koller, a UPI correspondent in Tokyo, Washington and Dallas in the 1990s, graduated from the Dallas Police Academy in March and started patrolling as a uniformed police officer. **Phil Magers**, his Dallas bureau manager, said Koller had "a long-time wish to work in law enforcement."

CAIRO: Jill Carroll, the journalist who was held hostage in Iraq for nearly three months last year, returned to the Middle East in February to report for the *Christian Science Monitor*. She took the Cairo assignment after completing a fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

FAIRFIELD, Connecticut: *Bulletin* "People" columnist **Al Kaff**, 86, and his wife **Diana**, 75, narrowly escaped injury—not a bruise nor a scratch—when a big truck smashed into the rear of their 1992 Toyota Corolla on a Fairfield street Feb. 21 and rammed the sedan again, spinning it around 180 degrees. The collision crushed the car's driver's side, Diana driving, and the car's rear and front. Police ruled that the truck driver was responsible for the mid-afternoon crash that totaled the car. The plus side: the Kaffs had planned to trade in the car for a new model. Al was a UPI correspondent, editor and manager for 29 years in Asia, where he met and married Diana.

GAZA: Alan Johnston, BBC correspondent in Gaza, was kidnapped by gunmen March 12 on a Gaza street, where his car was found abandoned. Johnston is the only foreign correspondent who lives in Gaza.

GUANGZHOU, China: Thomas Kunkel, dean of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, met with Chinese journalism students at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou, the former Canton, last December. In the *American Journalism Review*, he wrote: "Their journalism instruction is in English, and their command of the language is impressive. So is their sophisticated grasp of today's media landscape." In keeping with Guangzhou's more open nature, the city's media have earned a reputation in China for being more aggressive and ambitious than their northern counterparts." But over tea, one Chinese editor told Kunkel that journalists are never sure

where they stand. "The government at least used to be clearer about what it would, and wouldn't, tolerate," Kunkel wrote. "Today no one is quite sure, which of course has the effect of increasing self-censorship." Kunkel's host was **Arnold Zeitlin**, a former AP and then UPI manager and now a visiting professor of journalism at Guangdong University.

GUANTÁNAMO BAY: "I decapitated with my blessed right hand the head of the American Jew, **Daniel Pearl**, in the city of Karachi, Pakistan. For those who would like to confirm, there are pictures of me on the Internet holding his head." That was the confession of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, Al Qaeda's top operational planner, according to transcripts released by the Pentagon March 15. Pearl, a *Wall Street Journal* correspondent, was executed in 2002. The Pentagon said Mohammed confessed to 30 other plots and attacks including the 9/11 destruction of the Twin Towers and bombings in Kenya and Bali. The Bush administration denied torturing Mohammed, but earlier

said that when he made his confession he was subjected to waterboarding, strapped down and made to believe he was drowning. Mohammed, who has been held in Guantánamo four years, is fluent in three languages and was a student at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in the 1980s.

HARARE, Zimbabwe: *The Daily Mirror*, said to have been taken over by the nation's secret service in 2005, suspended publication in March because of a lack of newsprint, Chairman **Ibbo Mandaza** said. The German news agency Deutsche Presse Agentur reported that some of the paper's journalists have not been paid since the start of the year.

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania: "Enchanting Taiwan," a photo exhibit of Taiwan's nature, landscapes, folk customs and diverse cultures, will be held in the Pennsylvania state capital building in Harrisburg April 16-22. The exhibit is arranged by the press division of the
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Welcome to Our New Members

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PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 5)

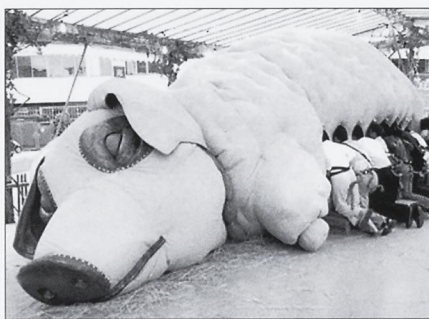
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York, and press officer **Abby Lee** invites OPC members to attend.

HAVANA: Cuba silenced two foreign correspondents in February by denying them new press credentials and journalist visas. The government told **Gary Marx** of *The Chicago Tribune* and **César González-Calero** of the Mexican newspaper *El Universal* that their reporting was not good for the government.

HONG KONG: Friends and admirers gathered in the Foreign Correspondents' Club late last year to celebrate the 95th birthday of **Clare Hollingworth**, doyenne of foreign correspondents in Asia. When she was 28, Clare scored a world scoop. On the morning of Sept. 1, 1939 she awakened her *Daily Telegraph* editor in London with a phone call from Poland to report that German warplanes were bombing Krakow, the start of World War II. The editor replied that he could not believe her report, but Clare said she knew because she heard the bombs exploding.



Clare Hollingworth



The Golden Pig

To mark the Chinese New Year of the Golden Pig, **Hugh** and **Annie Van Es** sent their friends around the world a picture of a huge pig being suckled by human beings. Hugh is the news photographer who took the historic photo of people climbing into an evacuation helicopter atop a Saigon building in April 1975 while Communist troops were entering the city.

KABUL: **Daniele Mastrogiacomo**, a correspondent for the leftist Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*, was released March 19, fifteen days after he was captured by Taliban forces. He was freed when Afghanistan agreed to release five Taliban prisoners it held. Perhaps the first time that prisoners have been exchanged for a hostage in Iraq and Afghanistan, the deal was criticized in Washington, London and other European capitals. Visiting Kabul, Dutch foreign minister Maxime Verhagen, told reporters,

"When we create a situation where you can buy the freedom of Taliban fighters when you catch a journalist, then in the short term there will be no journalists anymore."

Mastrogiacomo, 52, was abducted when he was driving with an interpreter and driver to an interview with a Taliban commander in southern Afghanistan. Dragged from place to place, nearly always in chains, he was forced to watch a Taliban soldier decapitate his driver and then wipe the blade clean on the headless body. "I imagine myself with my neck sliced, the blood splashed from all the arteries drained into the sand, the body committed to the river's course," Mastrogiacomo wrote in his newspaper the day he returned to Rome.

LONDON: Britain's High Court in March forbid the BBC from broadcasting news about accusations of campaign finance improprieties that are under police investigation. But the court lifted the ban a few days later after the *Guardian* published an article about the case. High Court Judge Caroline Swift said the ban was lifted after "the story was already in the public domain because it was already being printed." **Alan Cowell** of *The New York Times* reported, "For the past year, the police have been investigating accusations by some Welsh and Scottish politicians that major political parties traded seats in the House of Lords for donations and loans. The accusations have focused most recently on Mr. [Tony] Blair's Labor Party during the period when it sought to raise money during the 2005 general election, which it won with a reduced majority." British law forbids publication of material deemed prejudicial to pending court cases. The BBC argued that its story concerned a "legitimate matter of public interest."

Party girl Britney Spears won an injunction from London's High Court in March that bars the British press from printing details of her recent stint in an alcohol and drug rehabilitation clinic in Malibu, California. The injunction restrains a "John Doe" from invading her privacy by providing information about her time in rehab. Her London law firm said it did not know the name of the leaker. But Jason Alexander, to whom Spears was married for 55 hours in 2004, told the British tabloid *Sunday Mirror* in February that she had engaged in drug

OPC to Track Journalists Wounded in Iraq, Afghanistan

To fill a major gap in the chronicle of the Middle East wars, the Overseas Press Club of America is compiling a list of the journalists wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Press organizations including the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters Without Borders have recorded the journalists killed in the fighting (figures vary depending on the definitions of journalists and the circumstances of their deaths), but the record of injured journalists is fragmentary.

At the OPC Awards Dinner in April, the President's Award will honor all the journalists killed and injured in the current wars. Kimberly Dozier of CBS News, herself gravely injured in

Iraq, will accept the award. The club's preliminary research has found a staggering number of injured, but we are asking help in compiling a more complete list, which we intend to post on our website and keep updated.

We are asking all media organizations with staffers or stringers covering the wars to report their reporters, cameramen, crew members and other media workers who have been injured. If any club member personally knows a journalist who was injured, please provide the details.

Please send this information to journalist@opcofamerica.org as well as your own contact information for verification.

use and lesbian romps. Her London lawyers said in a statement she "intends to challenge false allegations that have already been published."

MOSCOW: Maksim V. Kashulinsky, editor-in-chief of the Russian edition of *Forbes*, was found guilty of defamation March 21 in a dispute over an article about a business run by the wife of Moscow's mayor. In a radio interview before the article was published, Kashulinsky said that Inteko, a company controlled by the mayor's wife, violated Russian law by trying to block publication of the article. Inteko, a real estate and construction company, sued for 106,500 rubles (about \$4,089), one ruble for each copy of the magazine's December print run. That issue carried a cover article on how the mayor's wife, Yelena N. Baturina, planned to prepare her business for her husband's eventual departure from office. The article stirred up accusations that the wife owed her success to her husband's public position. The magazine's former editor-in-chief, **Paul Klebnikov**, was shot to death on a Moscow street in 2004. *The New York Times* said the case against Kashulinsky "has been seen as a test of the independence of Russian-language editions of international magazines," including *Cosmopolitan*, *Newsweek* and *Esquire*, that blend international and local content.

Ivan Safronov, military affairs writer for the business daily *Kommersant*, was killed March 2 when he fell from a fifth-story window in the stairwell of his apartment building after returning from a shopping trip. The AP reported there was "speculation he was murdered for his critical reporting." Safronov frequently angered authorities with his critical writing, including a December report on the third consecutive launch failure of the new Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile that President Vladimir Putin hailed as the basis of Russia's nuclear might for years to come.

In a March 7 letter to Putin, the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee wrote, "Yet another journalist's death in Russia, under highly suspicious circumstances, casts a new blot on your country's reputation and the record of your administration. We call on you to conduct a thorough, impartial and open investigation into the death of Ivan Safronov."

NEW YORK: When *New York Times* op-ed columnist **Nicholas D. Kristof** goes to Africa on a reporting assignment this summer, he will be accompanied by a high school teacher and a college student, all their expenses paid. The teacher and student will be selected this spring in a *Times* essay contest in which they explain why they would like to make a reporting assignment with Nick to the developing world. Kristof, an OPC member, took last year's winner, **Casey Parks** of the University of Missouri, to Cameroon.

◆
OPC Foundation scholarship winners continue to fan out across the globe. **Melissa Chan**, who won the 2001 Kendrick scholarship with an essay about her experiences working for CNN veter-

an **Mike Chinoy** in Hong Kong, joined Al Jazeera English early this year as a producer/reporter in the network's Beijing bureau. "It's a wonderful opportunity and also a challenge to cover China as they gear up for the Olympics," she wrote in an e-mail to the Foundation. Earlier she worked as a print and broadcast freelancer in Hong Kong.

Matt Whittaker, who won the 2004 Stan Swinton Scholarship, now is a business reporter in south Texas. He covers business for *The McAllen Monitor*, *The Brownsville Herald* and the *Valley Morning Star* in Harlingen.

◆
OPC member **Ruth Gruber**, 95, will discuss her new book "Witness" [New York: Shocken Books] at 7pm April 25 at
(Continued on Page 8)

OPC at Dink Memorial Service

A standing-room only crowd of the New York area's Armenian population filled the vast St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral at 34th Street and Second Avenue on Sunday, March 4, to remember Hrant Dink, the Armenian-Turkish journalist murdered in Istanbul on January 19.

Dink, who founded the bilingual weekly *Agos* and ran it for ten years, had been prosecuted by the Turkish government for allegedly "insulting Turkishness" and had been a target of threats and hate mail from Turkish ultra-nationalists. He was shot in front of his office by a 17-year-old ultra-nationalist, who was soon arrested.

Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, head of the Armenian church in the Eastern U.S., and a dozen other prelates led the long and elaborate service conducted both in English and Armenian. Acolytes vigorously swung their incense burners to fill the cathedral with sweet smells and the diocesan choir sang beautifully.

After the service, the crowd moved to the cathedral's auditorium for refreshments and homages to Dink.

Three speakers concerned with freedom of the press issues then addressed the crowd. They were Peter Steinfelds, *New York Times* columnist and co-director of the Fordham Center for Religion & Culture; Jeremy Main of the OPC's Freedom of the Press

Committee, and Anna Kushner, of the PEN American Center. Ms. Kushner had met Dink on a recent visit to Istanbul.

In his talk, Main said Dink had the courage to raise all five issues that upset ultra-nationalists in Turkey as well as the government: the Armenian genocide, the actions of the Turkish security forces, the Kurdish separatists, the Turkish presence in Northern Cyprus and Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. Main pointed out that Dink "did not raise these matters in the spirit of dividing people or heating up passions. On the contrary, he wanted to clear the air, to make people face the truth, to cool passions between Turks and Armenians."

However, just to raise the question of the massacre of Armenians during World War I is a violation of Turkey's Article 301, which criminalizes "insulting Turkishness." A provincial judge had found him not guilty, citing freedom of expression, but a superior court overturned the ruling and a further hearing was scheduled. Then Dink, because he publicly protested his prosecution, faced a second prosecution for attempting to influence the course of justice. Dink's son, Arat, and two other journalists were prosecuted for the same reason. If they are convicted, the penalty would be three years in jail.

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 7)

the Museum of Jewish Heritage, 36 Battery Place, Manhattan. Published this month, the book includes Ruth's first-hand reports and photographs of her work with displaced Jews during and after World War II. In the foreword, Richard Holbrooke, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, writes: "If you want to know about the black hole of history before the end of World War II and the founding of Israel, go to Ruth Gruber."



Ruth Gruber

The museum writes that Ruth "escorted war refugees from Europe to America, visited displaced persons camps, detailed the plight of the *Exodus 1947*, described the establishment of the State of Israel, and documented the State's ingathering of refugees from Europe, Iraq, Yemen and Ethiopia." She was an emissary for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and statesman Harold Ickes, and a friend to Eleanor Roosevelt and Golda Meir. Ruth's niece, **Dava Sobel**, an author and former *New York Times* science reporter, will lead the conversation at the museum. Admission is \$5.

The three-column headline in the *Connecticut Post* explained **Andy Rooney's** view on a military draft: "If the U.S. is going to fight a war, our troops should reflect us all." The "60 Minutes" curmudgeon and OPC member wrote in his weekly newspaper column: "I never thought I'd hear myself say this, but if we, as a nation, decide to fight a war, it should be fought by average young American men, not by young men who joined up because they couldn't find anything else to do. They are not representative Americans."

Rooney wrote that he received his draft notice in August 1941, four months before Pearl Harbor when he was a junior in college. At that time his U.S. Army unit "was comprised of soldiers who'd voluntarily enlisted because the economy was bad and civilian jobs were hard to find," Rooney wrote. "Most of them were high school dropouts who simply could not find work and joined the Army as a last resort. Faced with fighting World War II, it was not long before Congress passed a draft law that drastically

changed the character of our Army and made it the best fighting force ever." To fill the ranks with the number of soldiers required in Iraq and Afghanistan, "recruiters have reduced the standards that previously existed for anyone volunteering for the Army or Navy," Rooney wrote.

Rooney repeated the gist of his March 6 column in his "60 Minutes" broadcast March 11. "I don't repeat my column material on my broadcasts very often, perhaps only once or twice a year, but I don't believe I have many readers," Andy explained when "People" telephoned him.

Cindy Adams was among eight women who received 2007 Matrix Awards in April from New York Women in Communications. Before she became a *New York Post* gossip columnist, Adams was a correspondent in Southeast Asia.



Dad, Mom and Roman Richard Peterson

Mary Pflum, a producer at ABC News/Good Morning America, called it "her best production to date": Roman Richard Peterson, born Jan. 31, weighing in exactly at 8 pounds and measuring 20.5 inches in length. Mom, Mary Pflum, and dad, Dean Peterson, "are thrilled beyond belief," OPC member Mary reported in an e-mail to the Club.

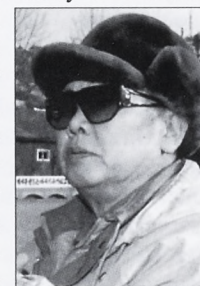
Three of this year's 12 George Polk Awards went to correspondents who covered international news. **Lydia Polgreen** of *The New York Times* won the foreign reporting Polk for her coverage of the war in Darfur and Chad. The military reporting Polk went to **Lisa Chedekel** and **Matthew Kauffman** of *The Hartford Courant* for their four-part-series on the high rate of suicide among American troops, many of them under combat stress in Iraq. Eleven students in the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley won the radio reporting Polk. In a seven-month project, they covered what they called human miseries and ecological perils of global

warming in several locales, including Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and the outskirts of Auckland, New Zealand. The awards were announced in March and will be presented on April 12 at a luncheon at the Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan.

PARIS: About 1,000 news media personnel around the world have been killed trying to report the news over the past 10 years, the International News Safety Institute reported in March. The bloodiest countries were Iraq with 138 killed; Russia, 88; Colombia, 72; Philippines, 55; Iran, 54; India, 45; Algeria, 32; the former Yugoslavia, 32; Mexico, 31; Pakistan, 29; Brazil, 27; the United States, 21; Bangladesh, 19; Ukraine, 17; Nigeria, Peru, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka, 16; and Afghanistan, Indonesia and Thailand, 13.

Richard Sambrook, the BBC global news director who chaired the study, said, "The figures show that killing a journalist is virtually risk free. Nine out of 10 murderers in the past decade have never been prosecuted. This encourages more of the same." **Rodney Pinder**, director of the Institute, commented, "In many countries, murder has become the easiest, cheapest and most effective way of silencing troublesome reporting."

PYONGYANG: A faculty delegation from Guayaquil University in Ecuador visited Pyongyang in January and awarded North Korea's Dear Leader Kim Jong-il on his birthday the titles of honorary professor and Master of Journalism as well as the university's education merit medal, inscribed "In high praise of feats performed for university education." The awards were reported by North Korea's Central News Agency. The report did not explain why Kim was honored by the university.



Kim Jong-il

SANA, Yemen: A Yemeni editor has been jailed and another editor fined for reprinting controversial cartoons about the Prophet Muhammad from a Danish newspaper. **Kamal al-Aalafi** was sentenced to jail and his weekly paper, *al-Rai al-Aam*, was ordered closed for six months. He was released on bail pending his appeal. **Muhammad Assadi** of the

Yemen Observer daily was found guilty of denigrating Islam and fined 0.5m riyals (about \$2,520). The Danish paper *Jyllands-Posten* first published the cartoons in 2005 in what it said was a protest against attempts at censorship by local Muslims. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has pledged to overturn any jail sentences handed to journalists, BBC News reported.

In Paris, a court ruled in favor of the weekly newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*, which faced charges from two Muslim groups after it published the Danish cartoons. The court ruled that Muslims might be offended by one of the cartoons, which depicted Muhammad wearing a turban shaped like a bomb, but the court said it saw no "deliberate intention of directly and gratuitously offending the Muslim community."

SEOUL: Agence France-Presse transferred **Simon Martin** from Hong Kong to Seoul late last year. The Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club held a farewell party for him.

SYDNEY: From his Texas home, **Joe Galloway** messaged on March 6: "Be advised that legendary UPI war correspondent **Kate Webb** is in the final stages of a losing battle with cancer that has spread to her liver. She has left a Sydney, Australia hospital and is at home with her family." While covering the Vietnam War, Webb was taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese in Cambodia and held for several weeks. UPI received a report that she had been killed and put out her obituary. But later she walked out of the jungle. "I can only wish that such a miracle was possible now," Galloway, her wire service colleague in Vietnam, wrote.



**Kate Webb
in Vietnam**

After she left UPI, Kate freelanced and then worked for Agence France-Presse in Asia in the 1980s before retiring. Cards and notes can be sent to Kate Webb, c/o Geoff and Rachel Miller, 85 Union Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060, Australia, or via e-mail to kwkatewebb@hotmail.com. Kate, 63, was born in New Zealand.

TRIPOLI, Libya: *Al Jamahiriya*, a government newspaper, has published a

rare criticism, denouncing officials who bar Libyan women from traveling abroad alone. "Turning back women traveling alone is a stark and crude abuse of basic women's rights," the newspaper wrote.

WASHINGTON: Helen Thomas will continue to occupy a front-row seat in the newly renovated West Wing press briefing room in the White House. The board of the White House Correspondents' Association announced in a statement: "As the dean of the White House press corps, Helen is an institution. First with United Press International and now as a White House columnist for Hearst newspapers, Helen has covered every president since John Kennedy." Thomas, 86, is an OPC member. The board also decided to move CNN to the front row because it has covered the White House for 27 years "as well as the resources it brings to the in-town and travel pool, and its daily presence at the briefings."

During **Brian Duffy's** seven years as editor-in-chief of *U.S. News & World Report*, the weekly magazine closed its overseas bureaus and retreated from hard news, concentrating instead on its rankings of colleges and hospitals and features on history, science and policy issues. Duffy resigned from the magazine in March and plans to write a book on the American Revolution. He was replaced by executive editor **Brian Kelly**.

The investigation and trial of I. Lewis (Scooter) Libby Jr. impacted the press in ways unthinkable in past years, **Adam Liptak** of *The New York Times* wrote. "Ten out of 19 of the witnesses in Mr. Libby's trial were journalists, a spectacle that would have been unacceptable only a few years ago," Liptak wrote in a March 8 News Analysis. "An earlier generation of reporters had maintained that there were no circumstances under which they would testify against their sources and that the flow of important information to the public could only be guaranteed by taking an absolutist position." Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, was found guilty in March of perjury and obstruction of justice. In *Branzburg v. Hayes* 35 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that reporters have no right under the First Amendment to refuse to answer questions from a grand jury. But few journalists were subpoenaed until the Libby investigation. "We had this truce for a generation since

Branzburg," Mark Feldstein, a journalism professor at George Washington University, commented. "Nobody really pressed it. The virginity is lost now."

In another news analysis, the AP's **Michael J. Sniffen** named what he called the losers and winners in the Libby case, including several from the press: "LOSERS. Big-time Washington reporters: Exposed as imperfect note-takers eager to shield their high-level official sources even when the sources were just spinning them. [Bob] Woodward; Judith Miller, then with *The New York Times*; John Dickerson, then with *Time*, and David Gregory of NBC appeared to shrug off exclusives dropped in their laps. Matthew Cooper: The former *Time* magazine reporter won't get work as a note-taker after defense attorneys picked apart his notes and described him interviewing Libby while sprawled on his bed after swimming in the country club. WINNERS. Tim Russert: Survived having the Bush team label his 'Meet the Press' as the most pliable venue on Sunday TV and being coaxed early on by an FBI agent into spilling details of his talk with Libby. Stuck to his story during a grueling five-hour cross-examination, and jurors believed him over Libby."

Bob Schieffer, chief Washington correspondent for CBS News and moderator of "Face the Nation" received the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Award from the Freedom Forum in March at a black tie dinner in the National Press Club. The award, established in 1992, honors "accomplishments that have stirred the public's hearts and souls by demonstrating the human capacity to dream, dare, do." Previous winners include Aung San Suu Kyi, leader for democracy in Burma; Terry Anderson, the AP reporter who survived seven years of captivity in Lebanon; and Chuck Yeager, the first flier to break the sound barrier.

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia: Alessandro Bertellotti, a journalist with Italian TV station RAI, was one of the passengers who escaped when a Boeing 737 passenger plane operated by Indonesian carrier Garuda overshot a runway and burst into flames after a domestic flight from Jakarta. At least 21 passengers were killed. Bertellotti got out of the wreckage safely and photographed the scene while more than 100 people escaped. His coverage was televised in the United States and around the world.

"The plane landed at a crazy speed," Bertellotti said. "It was going into a dive, and I was certain we would crash on the ground. It literally bounced on the strip." Several Australian journalists and diplomatic staffers were on the plane after covering the visit to Indonesia by Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, who was not on the plane.

ATTENTION: Got an item for the "People" column? Send it to AlbertKaff@aol.com or by post to the OPC office.

IN MEMORY

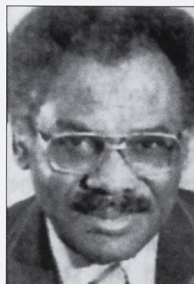
Jack Samson, who took a pay cut to cover the Korean War for United Press, died at his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, March 18, one day before his 85th birthday. Samson was working in Tokyo in public relations for an airline during the Korean conflict. One night he "had too many drinks in a Tokyo lounge," he said in a 2002 interview. "I thought I wanted to be a war correspondent. I guess I read too much Hemingway. Three bourbons later I woke up in GI clothes flying over Seoul with a hang-over and a big pay cut."

After the war, Samson joined the AP in Albuquerque, New Mexico and began writing an outdoors column for the wire service. He joined *Field & Stream* in New York City in 1970 as managing editor and became the magazine's editor-in-chief in 1972, retiring in 1985. During World War II, he served as a U.S. Army Air Corps B-24 navigator in China, where he became a friend of General Claire Chennault of the Flying Tigers, with whom he shared a love of fishing. Samson wrote several books, most of them on outdoor subjects and fishing, and a biography of Chennault.

Agustin Tamargo, 82, an outspoken Cuban journalist who criticized Fidel Castro in print and on the radio, died of cardiac arrest March 7 in Miami Beach, Florida. Born in Cuba, he wrote for Havana magazines and newspapers in the 1940s, criticizing the dictator Fulgencio Batista so fiercely that Tamargo was forced into exile. He returned to Cuba after Castro's triumph in 1959 but became disillusioned as Castro turned to Communism. The journalist left Cuba again in 1960 after writing a parting shot to Castro, "You don't want journalists, you want record players." Tamargo then worked on newspa-

pers in Venezuela and Argentina before moving to New York City, where he became editor of the Spanish-language newspapers *El Tiempo* and *El Diario/La Prensa*. By 1980 he had moved to Miami, where he broadcast on Radio Mambi and represented the most anti-Castro of the Cuban exile community.

Oliver (Bert) Walker, 85, who wrote and broadcast Caribbean news, died March 2 in his Maryland home. Born in Barbados, Walker immigrated to the United States. He wrote a Caribbean column for the New York *Daily News*, anchored a weekly broadcast of Caribbean news on New York radio station WWRL, and founded *The West-Indian American* newspaper. Walker also produced several Caribbean music shows at Madison Square Garden.



Bert Walker

OPC member **Elliseva Sayers**, 95, head of a New York public relations firm for more than 40 years and a former newspaper and magazine writer in Ireland, England and the United States, died in a New York hospital Feb. 27 after an illness of several months. After World War II, Sayers set up her international PR firm, which represented the Japan External Trade Organization and the Japan Trade Center; consulates of Portugal, Venezuela and Greece; and several trade groups. Born in Cork, Ireland, Elliseva was a student of Samuel Beckett at Trinity College in Dublin, and she maintained correspondence with him and George Bernard Shaw. She wrote for the *Irish Times*, *Dublin Evening Mail*, *Manchester Daily Express* and London's *Daily Mail* before moving to the United States after World War II. In New York, she contributed to the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Connoisseur*, *The New York Times Magazine* and other publications. She wrote articles on subjects ranging from gourmet dog food to Conan Doyle that were syndicated in the United States, Canada and overseas. Elliseva never stopped writing. Recently



Elliseva Sayers

her poem "Why Aren't I Famous and Rich? A Disconsolate Reporter's Lament" was set to music by a nephew-in-law and produced for distribution in Australia. A friend, Susan Towers, sent obituary material to the OPC, and wrote, "Her sense of humor and sometime biting wit was legendary, and she maintained extensive correspondence with friends and family around the world."

Earl Mazo, a U.S. Army Air Corps reporter for *Stars and Stripes* in Europe during World War II, died Feb. 17 at a Bethesda, Maryland hospital of complications from a fall at his Chevy Chase home. After the war, he served one year in the Truman administration as a deputy assistant Secretary of Defense. He joined the *New York Herald Tribune* in 1951, working in New York and Washington; *The New York Times* in 1964 as national political editor; and a year later became a *Reader's Digest* roving correspondent. He covered the Nixon White House and wrote the 1959 biography, "Richard Nixon: A Political and Personal Portrait." Mazo was born in Warsaw and immigrated to the United States when he was a child.

Rosemary Spurr, widow of **Russell Spurr**, a correspondent in Asia from the 1950s-1980s, died of liver cancer Feb. 11 in her home in Killarney Heights, Australia, surrounded by her family and her beloved cat Sebastian. "Our mother genuinely loved animals all her life," the Spurr boys wrote to friends. "So if you feel you would like to make a gesture to her memory please send a small donation to the animal welfare of your choice." Her husband, who died in 2002, reported for *The Daily Express*, BBC, Visnews and the *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

Ly Kim-Song, 64, Phnom Penh office manager of the Agence France-Presse bureau, died Jan. 14 after an illness. Hong Kong correspondent **Max Kolbe** wrote that Ly helped many correspondents and photographers by spotting errors in news stories and translating, and he "massaged egos, launched and nursed many a hang-over, [and] dealt with belligerent authorities and dilettante journalists."

Sally Shannon, wife of OPC member **Don Shannon**, died last Dec. 6 in Washington, D.C., where they lived. The Shannons lived in Tokyo for many years when he was a *Los Angeles Times* correspondent.

WHITAKER AND PEARLSTINE

(Continued from Page 2)

The movement towards gathering information from more specialized sources on the web is going to make it hard for organizations like *The Times* to fund investigative reporting and foreign coverage, Whitaker said. Those areas have been supported by advertising sold against sections such as Travel and Real Estate, but now advertisers are finding they can target their ads better through other places online. "I think general interest both in print and online does not have a very bright future," Whitaker said. "Not to say there isn't a place for quality news organizations that are focused on what they are good at, but they will have to acknowledge that those are niches, too. The universe of people who want in-depth coverage of foreign news is a niche and publications that will survive will really focus on that and spend less time trying to do all things for all people."

Whitaker said that one area sure to be up for more cuts is foreign coverage, as most news organizations will use international reporting from other sources in order to save money.

Pearlstine and Whitaker cited some Internet-era success stories, including the online magazine *Slate*, which features news and analysis from a contrarian point-of-view; *The Week* magazine, which is basically a smartly edited weekly digest of news items; the online *Huffington Post*, which delivers news and blogs slanted toward the left, and *The Economist* magazine. "The *Economist*'s circulation in the U.S. in the last five years is up 46 percent and is now closing in on 700,000, which is substantial for a weekly that charges, what?—\$110 a year?—and actually gets it," Pearlstine said. "I think 600,000 to 700,000 is still a niche audience and that audience is part of a global community and likes the product. I should say that *The Economist* does it with an editorial staff somewhere around 75."

Whitaker and Pearlstine noted that while the Internet has disrupted the traditional news business, there are now more sources of information available than ever. Anyone with a computer can now access nearly any newspaper around the world. In addition, someone wanting to read about Iraq can find Iraqi blogs as well as blogs written by American soldiers. Whitaker said news organizations could provide a service if they mixed their own content with a "smart sifting" of other resources available on the web.

"The problem is that there are still a lot of people hung up on the idea that people should just be consuming their content and you're hurting yourself by linking to other content," he said.

Both men offered a murky picture of the future. The days of corporate ownership of newspapers look to be near the end, they said, as the fat profit margins of the corporate era are now—despite drastic cost-cutting—disappearing. Coming from the world of private equity, Pearlstine noted that with shrinking and unpredictable rates of return, newspaper companies are just not very sexy targets for private money anymore. "The idea that someone might buy something and hold it for five years does not seem like an answer for newspapers," he said. "If there are owners comfortable with lower rates of return, or something like the Poynter Institute can be created elsewhere, or if there can be family newspapers with lower margins, that's probably a better way to get better newspapers."

Whitaker added: "You will see fewer publicly held media chains. In some cases

public companies will go private. Or you will see individual investors come along and buy up individual newspapers or collections of newspapers, partly for return but also because they're interested in the quality of journalism in their community, and also because they want to use them for vehicles or tools in their own interests. But that's how the newspaper business started."

One positive development, Whitaker said, is that it now seems possible for a single reporter or a small group to make a living solely through revenue gathered from search advertising.

Overall, neither Whitaker nor Pearlstine had many kind words for large media organizations. "Media companies have forgotten user experience," Whitaker said. "You need a user experience on the web which is as good as the print experience. I think that if *Time* and *Newsweek* can make significant breakthroughs in the user experience, they can get someplace. The equivalent was when *Time* launched *Life*. It was just a very different way of experiencing the news."

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 12)

dreams of people she's never met including Al Gore, Larry King, Britney Spears, Estee Lauder, Michael Douglas, Ted Turner, John F. Kennedy, Donald Trump and Dick Cheney. When she dreamed of mountains and the next day a tape by Ayman al-Zawahiri was broadcast, Maria then sent a tip to the FBI suggesting the Al Qaeda leader might be hiding in the mountains of Afghanistan because she had dreamed of them.

IF YOU HOSTED A PRESS CONFERENCE and no one came, you should read "PR on a Budget: Free, Cheap and Worth the Money, Strategies for Getting Noticed" [Chicago: Kaplan Publishing]. Author **Leonard Saffir**, OPC president from 1988-1990, writes: "I love the craft of public relations. I have helped giant Fortune 100 companies and small businesses, including my own, succeed because of public relations. I have counseled politicians in this country and abroad and helped causes get on the map. It is exciting to write about public relations today because it is an exciting time to be in PR." Saffir describes how to develop successful PR strategies, write relevant press releases, how to get reporters to listen to PR pitches and how to create buzz on the Internet.

The publisher sent a copy of the book to George Steinbrenner, owner of the New York Yankees. In a thank-you letter addressed "Dear Leonard," Steinbrenner wrote, "As I glanced through the book, Chapter 10, 'How to Stage Manage the Interview' caught my eye. I gave it a read and with spring training right around the corner I may have to memorize the entire chapter so that I don't blow it. The press is relentless." In that chapter, Saffir offers suggestions on how to get your PR points across when a reporter interviews you: "Sometimes an interviewer may appear hostile because of the interviewer's style.... Remain detached and unemotional. By far the best thing to do when confronted with hostility is to pause, breathe in slowly, and answer unemotionally. When subjects blow their cool, they put themselves in the hands of the interviewer.... Snappy interjections of humor and flip remarks are dangerous."



Leonard Saffir

An INS correspondent in Asia in the 1950s, Saffir has served as executive vice president of Porter Novelli. The Public Relations Society of America awarded him its Silver Anvil award.

New Books

GLOBAL

“OF COURSE TRUFFLES ARE UNIQUE. You don’t actually eat the truffle, you eat its flavor and you cannot say that about any other food.” So writes **Richard Cook**, an international journalist, in *“Il tartufo d’oro: From Italian earth to Hong Kong table. The journey of a record-breaking white truffle”* [Hong Kong: WorldAsia Ltd]. The author writes about the *tartufo d’oro* (golden truffle) that set a world record at auction when Hong Kong tycoon Gordon Wu outbid connoisseurs from France and Italy to bring the large mushroom to Hong Kong. He paid 95,000 Euros (about \$72,040) for the 1.2 kilogram (2.6 pound) truffle that was served to 60 paying guests at the Toscana Restaurant in Hong Kong’s Ritz Carlton Hotel. The proceeds were donated to charity. The book is illustrated with photos by Hong Kong-based photographer **Marcus Oleniuk**.

EUROPE

“IT IS ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT, arcane, and, to some, embarrassing rites of the Roman Catholic Church. Yet the demand for exorcism—and trained exorcists—is booming.” With those words, the publisher introduces

“The Vatican’s Exorcists: Driving out the Devil in the 21st Century” [New York: Warner Books] by



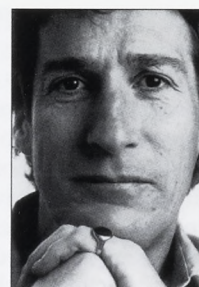
Tracy Wilkinson

OPC member **Tracy Wilkinson**, Rome bureau chief for the *Los Angeles Times*. The author writes that “devil detox” has become an industry, complete with motivational speakers, international conventions and plenty of controversy. In researching her book, Wilkinson witnessed exorcisms and interviewed Catholic officials and lay members, scientists and Father Gabriele Amorth, an octogenarian who has led a campaign to reestablish exorcism as a regular and respected rite. Wilkinson won a Polk Award for her reporting from Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s.

THE ROLE OF THE BRITISH MONARCHY

when divine right no longer prevails and elected leaders govern is examined in *“On Royalty: A Very Polite Inquiry into Some Strangely Related Families”* [New York: Public Affairs]. The author, BBC journalist **Jeremy Paxman**, looks into why kings and queens still fascinate us. While researching the book, Paxman went to Buckingham Palace to see Queen Elizabeth return in her carriage from the opening of Parliament. “For an instant we had eye contact and I thought with utter horror, ‘Oh no! She’s going to talk to me!’ I wanted the ground to swallow me, anything to avoid finding something to say to this particular little old lady.

And then, to my relief, the queen’s gaze shifted, she turned to gather up her retinue, and they followed her up the steps and into the palace.” Paxman writes that he has interviewed presidents, prime ministers, generals and a living god, the Dalai Lama, and he wonders, “Why should one individual have this capacity to strike awe?...What was it about this diminutive grandmother that induced paralyzing tension?”



Jeremy Paxman

NORTH AMERICA

“MY PSYCHIC ABILITY transcends real time and space. I’m able to time travel while dreaming and can verify my claims about dreams of the future.” So writes OPC member **Maria Ferris** in describing her self-published book *“Finding My Life through Poems, Proverbs and Dreams.”* Maria writes,



Maria Ferris

“I believe I have some psychic ability. One has to wonder if there might be another dimension to dreams as I’ve dreamt about real places unknown to me.” Maria dreams of future events, the morning news, Biblical figures and her deceased mother “who told me she was Mother Nature.” She

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**“COLLUSION:
International Espionage
and the War on Terror”**

**Craig Unger and
Carlo Bonini
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**FRONTLINE CLUB
“Talking to the Enemy”**

**Panel Discussion
Monday, April 16 at 6pm**

**OPC AWARDS DINNER
Thursday, April 26 at 6pm
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